

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – MINUTES – AUGUST 8, 2022

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, August 8, 2022 at 7 p.m. in the O'Connor Council Chambers and virtually.

Present: Mayor Vezina
Councillors: Crane, Loan, Racicot
Clerk-Treasurer Buob
Administrative Assistant Laforest
Visitors: Kelly Johnson, Leadhand
Jonathon Hari

Mayor Vezina called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING BE APPROVED.

Carried

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof: none

2. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 11, 2022 BE ACCEPTED AS PRINTED.

Carried

Visitors were asked if they wished to address Council and they replied no.

Mr. Johnson, Leadhand, was welcomed to the table. A Road Department update and roadwork in general was discussed. Two loads of calcium have been applied to the Township roads so far, with two more to go. Mr. Caren, Intern, has been working with the summer student. One of the recycling bins, which was not painted last year, has now been done. Gravel has been laid and a culvert has been installed at the Disposal Site. Grass is being cut around the guiderails. There are still more culverts to be installed. The Road Employees will be taking down the rest of the Municipal Garage Shop B this week, which will allow the contractor to get started when they are ready, following the award tonight.

Mr. Johnson provided a list of surplus equipment and materials available. Items are currently being stored in the various buildings on the property during construction. Mr. Johnson noted that he did advertise for the sale of the old garage door and it has been sold for the asking price.

The Township's plow trucks were discussed. Mr. Johnson is having trouble finding a turbo for Truck #9. He now has Lakeside Injection working on it for him. It was noted that there is a Ritchie Bros. Auction coming up in September, if Council would like to sell one of the trucks there.

Mr. Johnson was asked to stay at the meeting for the opening of the quotes for the Bridge and Structure Study and for discussion in regard to the bids for the Shop B retrofit.

The Administration and Roads Voucher for August 8, 2022 was reviewed and it was

3. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Jerry Loan

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ROADS VOUCHER #2022-14 DATED AUGUST 8, 022 TOTALLING \$109,308.77 BE APPROVED AND PAID.

Carried

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Council agreed to move items 12 a) and b) forward on the agenda to discuss with Mr. Johnson.

The Request for Quotes for a Bridge and Large Structure Study were opened. Two quotes were received. The first quote opened was from for WSP Canada for \$4,225. plus HST. The second quote was from JML Engineering for \$4,200. plus HST. Both companies have worked for the Township in the past and there have been no concerns. It was

4. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE QUOTE OF JML ENGINEERING TO CONDUCT A COMPLETE STRUCTURAL INSPECTION OF THREE BRIDGES AND TWO CORRUGATED STEEL BOX CULVERTS WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR AT A COST OF \$4,200.00 + HST BE ACCEPTED.

Carried

The Municipal Garage Shop B Retrofit project was discussed. The original lowest bid from Syncor Contracting Limited was reviewed. After the opening of the bids at the July 11, 2022 Council meeting, it was decided that further clarification was required. Approach Design, Jeremiah Gammond, Syncor Contracting Limited, Jean Laforest, the Township's Leadhand, Kelly Johnson and Clerk-Treasurer, Lorna Buob, met at the site on July 21, 2022 to discuss the project further. Following the meeting, Syncor Contracting Limited provided Post Tender Optional Pricing. Mr. Gammond provided a recommendation and Mr. Johnson provided additional information in regard to the meeting. The options were discussed and it was

5. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE ORIGINAL TENDER BID OF SYNCOR CONTRACTING LIMITED BE ACCEPTED FOR THE RENOVATIONS TO THE MUNICIPAL GARAGE – SHOP B, 329 HIGHWAY 595 AT A COST OF \$284,500.00 + HST;

PLUS, AS PER THE ADDITIONAL POST TENDER OPTION 1. ADDITIONAL SLAB ON GRADE, FOR \$13,650.00 + HST;

PLUS, OPTION 2. CREDIT FOR OWNER TO COMPLETE THE SLAB DEMOLITION FOR \$3,200.00 + HST (CREDIT).

COUNCIL WILL ALSO APPROVE A 15% CONTINGENCY BUDGET OF THE TOTAL BID TO ALLOW FOR ADDITIONAL COSTS.

Carried

The funding of the project was discussed. Total costs of the project have not yet been determined, however, the original project funding from the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) will be spent with this bid alone. Council will have to determine how the balance of the project will be covered. A summary of additional costs, funding options, reserve balances and loan information was provided. The Clerk-Treasurer will continue to look for any other funding opportunities, including additional OCIF. A portion of the project will require a loan and Clerk-Treasurer Buob recommends a Construction Loan and Debenture through Infrastructure Ontario. Once the final construction numbers are determined the options will be discussed further.

Councillor Crane noted that he seen Mr. Johnson out working on Saturday after the heavy rainfall on Friday night and thanked him for his dedication to the job and the extra time that he puts in to ensure that the Township roads are safe, even beyond regular hours.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

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The Statement of Revenue and Expenditures to June 30, 2022 were reviewed. The Clerk-Treasurer apologized for not having the variances of the budget available at this time, even though the budget has been set. It will be available at the next meeting.

By-laws and Policies were reviewed as follows:

- a) i) Lakehead Police Services Board – Request for Appointment of Members to the Board. As both current Council representatives on the Board, Kevin Holland and Jerry Loan, have resigned, the Board is looking to appoint two new representatives. Two new members have stepped forward, Councillor Bob McMaster of the Township of Conmee and Councillor Brian Wright of the Municipality of Neebing. If Council agree with these appointments an appointing By-law has to be passed by each member municipality.
 - ii) By-law Number 2022-16 Being a by-law to appoint the Municipal Council representatives to the Lakehead Police Service Board was reviewed and it was
6. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT BY-LAW NUMBER 2022-16 BEING A BY-LAW TO APPOINT THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE LAKEHEAD POLICE SERVICE BOARD BE PASSED AND ENTERED IN THE BY-LAW BOOK.

Carried

- b) By-law Number 2022-09 - Being a by-law authorizing the execution of an Agreement with Bell Canada for Next Generation 9-1-1 Service and a copy of Agreement was read. A By-law to execute the Agreement was passed at the March 28, 2022 meeting, however the actual Agreement has just been provided for final review. Council agreed that the service is needed and the Agreement will be signed.

The following policies, in regard to COVID-19 requirements were reviewed.

- c) Review Policy 4.24 – Policy for Mandatory Use of Mask or Face Covering.
- d) Review Policy 4.25 – Pandemic Risk Management and Prevention Policy.
- e) Review Policy 4.26 – Pandemic Risk Management and Prevention Policy - O'Connor Community Centre.
- f) Review Policy 4.30 – Policy for COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Testing.

As COVID restrictions continue to change, Council agreed to have administration review the policies and bring forward any necessary changes to make them generic and state that the Township will follow current health guidelines. If changes are required, they will be brought back to Council for final approval.

Lakehead Rural Planning Board Application 1B/20/22 and 1B/21/22 final decision of the Board was read. The applications have both been approved. The Secretary-Treasurer, Kerri Reid, has also asked for clarification on these applications in regard to the transfer of the Road Allowance to the Township. Council agreed to accept the Parts 1 and 3, located on Earl Road, and not accept Parts 5 and 7 along Highway 595. It was noted that Ms. Reid has been told by the Ministry of Transportation that they are no longer accepting Road Allowance transfers. She is currently requesting clarification as to whether or not this is for the unincorporated sideroads only or the Provincial Highways as well.

Resolutions for endorsement were read as follows:

- a) Township of Mulmur regarding Climate Emergency Declaration was filed.
- b) Town of South Bruce Peninsula regarding the Physician Shortages in Ontario. It was

7. Moved by A. Crane
Seconded by Bishop Racicot

THAT THE RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWN OF SOUTH BRUCE PENINSULA RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THAT THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO AND GOVERNMENT OF CANADA RECOGNIZE THAT THE SHORTAGE IN HEALTH CARE WORKERS IS NOT UNIQUE TO PERSONAL SUPPORT

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WORKERS BUT IS ALSO RELEVANT TO PHYSICIANS INCLUDING SPECIALISTS AND GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND ASK THAT THE PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS TAKE STEPS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND SUBSIDY TO STUDENTS ENTERING MEDICAL SCHOOL WITH THE INTENTION OF BECOMING PRACTICING PHYSICIANS IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO AND PARTICULARLY IN UNDERSERVED RURAL AND NORTHERN MUNICIPALITIES; AND WORK WITH CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ACCEPTED INTO MEDICAL SCHOOL AND RESIDENCY PROGRAMS; AND EXPEDITE THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS BE ENDORSED.

Carried

Correspondence was read as follows:

- a) Lakehead Police Services Board – Agenda for the July 13, 2022 meeting, Minutes of the April 13, 2022 meeting, OPP April – June 2022 Report for the Township of O'Connor calls for service.
- b) Minister of Infrastructure regarding Ontario Bringing High-Speed Internet Access to More Communities.
- c) The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) –
 - i) Update from the Board – July 20, 2022.
 - ii) 2022 Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference Briefing.
 - iii) TBDSSAB Going to Work Employment Incentives Program.
- d) Municipality of Neebing regarding their Public meeting to adopt a revised Official Plan.
- e) Treasury Board Secretariat regarding Emergency Management Ontario – Organizational Updates.
- f) Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry – reply to Council's endorsed resolution from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent on access to affordable internet services.
- g) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – regarding changes to the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities.
- h) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – Municipal Waste Update: CMO Responds to July 26 Letter on Revised Master Services Agreement and Statements of Work.

The balance of the correspondence was passed around table.

Under Old Business, Council discussed

- a) Wendy Handy – letter of resignation from Council, effective July 28, 2022, as she has sold her property and moved out of the Township.
- b) Resource Productivity & Recovery Authority - Statement from the Registrar regarding the new Blue Box Regulations and the establishment of a Blue Box System on July 1, 2023.
- c) Report from Administrative Assistant Laforest regarding the Township of O'Connor's options in regard to transition to Blue Box Producer and Producer responsibilities. Ms. Laforest has been meeting regularly with the Continuous Improvement Fund (CIF) in regard to the Blue Box Transitioning for the Township of O'Connor. She has also met with Circular Materials Ontario (CMO) to discuss the options for the transition. The Township of O'Connor's transition date is January 1, 2024, however there are decisions to be made prior to that date. There is a Bridging Phase from 2024- 2025 with the Final Phase coming in January 2026. The Township can decide to no longer recycle at our facility, continue to operate and pay our own recycling cost with no funding from the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA), or contract with CMO to operate a recycling depot through the Township with CMO hiring a hauler for the recycling and paying the Township for any recycling related costs, such as hauling, as staff time, maintenance, snowplowing etc. Processing fees are not included in the Agreement. The Township would negotiate a contract with CMO. The program only allows for residential garbage and they will not cover for Commercial, Industrial or Institutional recycling and they also consider limits for contamination (non-recyclables) received in the bin. CMO will use the 2020 Data Call information for the Township to determine the hauling costs. GFL has not yet been contacted to breakdown their invoice between the transportation costs and processing costs for the data required by CMO. Administration currently is recommending keeping the Township of O'Connor's Disposal Site as a depot for our

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residents, enter into an Agreement with CMO and continue with GFL pickups during the bridging period. Council agreed that a depot for recycling will remain at the current site and it was

8. Moved by Bishop Racicot
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR OPT TO CONTINUE TO ACCEPT BLUE BOX RECYCLING AT THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR'S DISPOSAL SITE.

Carried

- d) City of Thunder Bay regarding the Work Plan for Superior North EMS 2021-2030 Master Plan.

Under New business, Council discussed

- a) Hymers Agricultural Society request to sell 50/50 tickets within the Township of O'Connor. It was

9. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE HYMERS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY BE ALLOWED TO SELL 50/50 DRAW TICKETS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR FOR THEIR UPCOMING FAIR FUNDRAISER. DRAW DATE BEING SEPTEMBER 5, 2022.

Carried

- b) Solicitor General regarding Updates to Ontario Regulation 444/19 (Standards of Care and Administrative Requirements) under the Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019 (PAWS Act) in regard to updated standards of care for dogs kept outdoors and dogs tethered outdoors are now in effect as of July 1, 2022. Council is concerned with who is responsible for enforcing this new Regulation. This will be looked into further.
- c) Pyroboyz – Last time for Fireworks until New Years. The City of Thunder Bay has changed their Fireworks By-law and they will no longer be allowing the fireworks sales to occur at certain times of the year. Council was asked if they would be willing to allow Pyroboyz to sell fireworks in the Township of O'Connor if they were interested. Council agreed that Administration could contact them to see if they might be interested.
- d) Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility – invitation to submit a nomination for the 2022 Ontario Senior Achievement Award. Nominations due September 9, 2022. No submissions will be made at this time.
- e) University of Guelph – Assessing the Capacity of Municipalities to Respond to and Support Agri-Food Systems in Ontario – invitation to participate in a research project. Councillor Crane has completed the survey. No one else was interested at this time.
- f) A discussion with regard to upcoming meetings and the possibility of changing the dates for October 24, 2022 as the Municipal Election will be held on that date, as well as the November 14, 2022 meeting, as the new term of Council starts on November 15, 2022. Council agreed to hold one meeting in between these two dates and a date will be set at the next meeting.

Under Further New Business, the Clerk-Treasurer informed Council that she will be taking holidays and will not be in attendance at the next meeting in September. She has confirmed that Administrative Assistant Laforest can be appointed as the Clerk at the beginning of that meeting for that meeting.

Issues brought forward or letters received after agenda was mailed

- a) Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council regarding the Firefighter Certification. On July 1, 2022 O.Reg 343/22: Firefighter Certification came into force in the Province of Ontario. Municipalities have expressed their concerns for the additional expense to have their members certified and on August 8, 2022 the Fire Marshal's Office announced the creation of a \$750,000 grant to support Firefighters Certification in Ontario. The grant will be provided over three years and is open to all Ontario fire

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departments who can demonstrate a need for educational materials to support training and certifying their members.

- b) Association of Municipalities (AMO) – Policy Update – Mental Health and Addictions Submission and Automated Camera-Based Enforcement Guidance Released.
 - c) Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) - regarding Ontario Calls out Unfair Duties on Softwood Lumber, Defends Forestry Workers and Industry.
10. Moved by Jerry Loan
Seconded by A. Crane

THAT THE COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURN TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIRTUAL.

TIME BEING: 8:33 P.M.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer